

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 027873
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ARDAY:TH
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.
S/S: AOTTO

-----080308Z 089463 /70

O 080251Z FEB 77 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 027873

NODIS
FOR CHARGE AND AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US, IS

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN LEBANON

REF: (A) BEIRUT 517; (B) DAMASCUS 827

1. FOR BEIRUT: YOU SHOULD TELL BOUTROS THAT WE ARE
FLOATING WITH THE ISRAELIS THE PULLBACK OF THE SYRIAN
FORCE FROM KFAR TIBNIT TO JARMAQ.
WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT
IT WILL APPEAR TO THE ISRAELIS AS A SIGNIFICANT WITHDRAWAL
TOWARD PREVIOUS POSITIONS, BUT WE ARE PREPARED TO TRY.

2. YOU SHOULD URGE BOUTROS TO MAKE A MAXIMUM EFFORT TO
IDENTIFY SOME LEBANESE FORCE, AS HE HAS TOLD US THE
GOVERNMENT WAS TRYING TO DO, AND SEND IT TO NABATIYAH

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AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE. THIS COULD MATERIALLY HELP IN
RELIEVING TENSIONS, BUT ONLY IF IT MOVES WITHIN THE NEXT
FEW DAYS.

3. MOST IMPORTANTLY, YOU SHOULD IMPRESS ON BOUTROS THAT,
DESPITE OUR ATTEMPTS TO PERSUADE THE ISRAELIS TO REGARD
THESE SMALL MEASURES AS WARRANTING THEIR FURTHER RESTRAINT,

WE BELIEVE THERE IS MOUNTING RISK. AS BOUTROS WILL DOUBT-
LESS KNOW FROM THE PRESS, FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON CALLED IN

OUR CHARGE SUNDAY NIGHT AND MADE A STRONG DEMARCHE TO
THE EFFECT THAT SYRIAN TROOPS WERE STILL IN THE SOUTH
AFTER TWO WEEKS AND THAT ISRAELI RESTRAINT WAS REACHING
ITS LIMITS. WE ARE, AS WE HAVE BEEN, URGING THE ISRAELIS
TO CONTINUE TO REFRAIN FROM COUNTERACTION, BUT AS MORE
TIME PASSES WE ARE LESS SANGUINE ABOUT OUR CHANCES OF
SUCCESS.

4. WE MUST THEREFORE URGE THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT
STRONGLY TO WORK OUT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS THAT WILL
PERMIT THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SYRIAN FORCE TO ITS
EARLIER POSITION.

5. FOR DAMASCUS: YOU SHOULD CONVEY TO THE SYRIANS THE
FOREGOING MESSAGE WE ARE GIVING BOUTROS.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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